

Message Text

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14

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-11

ACDA-05 AID-05 ARA-06 /080 W
----- 062147

R 280815Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2731

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

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CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, MILI, AO

SUBJECT: CLASHES BETWEEN FNLA AND UNITA FORCES REPORTED

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED.

ZAMBIA DAILY MAIL REPORTS RENEWED FIGHTING BETWEEN FNLA AND UNITA TROOPS ON OUTSKIRTS OF HUAMBO JANUARY 27. MAIL STATES THAT CAUSE OF CLASH WAS GROWING RESENTMENT WITHIN UNITA OVER REFUSAL OF FNLA FORCES ALLIED WITH THEM EITHER TO DEFEND THEIR POSITIONS AGAINST MPLA/CUBAN ATTACK OR TO HAND THEM OVER TO UNITA. MAIL ASSERTS UNITA NO LONGER HAS ANY FAITH IN FNLA FORCES IN SOUTHERN ANGOLA AND THAT THIS COULD MEAN END OF UNEASY ALLIANCE BETWEEN TWO MOVEMENTS. END UNCLASSIFIED

2. DAILY MAIL REPORT OF FIGHTING IN HUAMBO SUBSTANTIALLY CONFIRMED TO US BY NBC-TV JOURNALISTS WHO LEFT HUAMBO MORNING OF JANUARY 27. SHORTLY AFTER DAWN THAT MORNING JOURENALISTS HAD HEARD OUTBREAK OF GUNFIRE, INCLUDING MORTAR, BAZOOKA, AND MACHINE GUNS, COMING FROM DIRECTION OF FORMER PORTUGUESE
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ARMY GARRISON BEHIND HUAMBO AIRPORT. PRESS HAD THEN BEEN HASTILY

LOADED ABOUT UNITA CHARTER AIRCRAFT WHICH DEPARTED FOR LUSAKA
WHILE FIGHTING STILL GOING ON. JOURNALISTS BELIEVE THAT EARLIER
UNITA REFUSAL TO EXTEND THEIR STAY INSIDE ANGOLA RELATED TO
DECISION BY UNITA TO ATTACK AND DISARM REMAINING FNLA TROOPS
IN SOUTH, MOST OF WHOM FOLLOWERS OF DANIEL CHIPENDA AND OF
WHOSE RELIABILITY UNITA COULD NO LONGER BE SURE. ASSUMED UNITA
DESIRE KEEP KNOWLEDGE OF THIS OPERATION FROM INTERNATIONAL PRESS
WAS FRUSTRATED BY OVERNIGHT DELAY IN DEPARTURE OF PRESS AIR-
CRAFT.
WILKOWSKI

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Message Attributes

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